

1509/1204

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CITY LATIN,

OR,

CRITICAL and POLITICAL

R E M A R K S

ON THE

LATIN INSCRIPTION

On laying the FIRST Stone of the intended
NEW BRIDGE at *Black-Fryars*.

[Price One Shilling.]



CITY LATIN,
OR,
Critical *and* Political REMARKS
ON THE
LATIN INSCRIPTION
ON
LAYING THE FIRST STONE
OF THE INTENDED
NEW BRIDGE
At BLACK-FRYARS.

Proving almost every WORD, and every LETTER, of
it to be erroneous,

And contrary to the Practice of both ANCIENTS and
MODERNS in this Kind of WRITING :

Interspersed with curious Reflections on

ANTIQUES AND ANTIQUITY.

With a PLAN or PATTERN for a

NEW INSCRIPTION.

Dedicated to the Venerable SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

BY THE REV. BUSBY BIRCH,

L. L. D. F. R. S. F. A. S. F. G. C. and M. S. E. A. M. C. *&c.*
Member of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manu-
factures and Commerce.

Quis expedit Salmafio suam Hundredam,
Picamque docuit verba nostra conari ? MILTON.

The THIRD EDITION, with Additions and Corrections.

L O N D O N,
Printed for R. STEVENS, at Pope's-Head in
Paternoster-Row, 1761.

CITY LATIN

OF

THE





REMARKS

ON THE

LATIN INSCRIPTION, &c.

THOUGH I cannot but applaud the Zeal and Affection, which our worthy Citizens of *London*, have expressed towards the GREAT MINISTER, in their Inscription on laying the first Stone of the intended New Bridge, yet I could wish they had been contented with expressing it in their own native Language; which will probably last as long as the Bridge, though built on *Elliptic* Arches.

B

There

There were doubtless among them Persons of sufficient Abilities for such a Task : Witness the late Address of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen ; witness the Address of the Common Council ; witness the Address of the Merchants ; all which, we may venture to say, have not been outdone by the Addresses of any other Mayors, Aldermen, and Corporations, or even of our two Universities. Where then was the Necessity, that the Inscription in Question should be couched in an unknown Tongue ? Unknown we may call it to most of our Citizens, whose Knowledge in *Latin* scarce extends further than the famed *Ashley's* Motto, *Pro Bono Publico* ; though it must be allowed, that many of them are conversant in the *French*, *Spanish*, *Italian*, *German*, *High Dutch*, *Low Dutch*, and HEBREW.

I know not, whether this *Latin* Inscription (if it may be called *Latin*) was drawn up by the Reverend Ordinary of *Newgate*, or my Lord Mayor's Chaplain, or the Master of *Merchant Taylors*,

Taylor's, or *Paul's School*, or even the *Charter-House*; but the following Remarks will, I think, sufficiently prove the Author to be wholly ignorant of *Classical Latinity*, and an entire Stranger to the usual Stile of *Inscriptions*.

But it will be necessary, in order to refresh the Reader's Memory, that I should transcribe this Inscription, together with its *English* Translation, as it has appeared in the public Papers: Though there is great Reason to imagine, that it was originally first drawn up in *English*, by some learned *Deputy* or other, and afterwards *done into Latin*, as the Phrase is; which, if this be the Case, will readily account for the many *Anglicisms* that occur in it.

(4)

Ultimo die Octobris, anno ab incarnatione

MDCCLX.

auspicatissimo principe GEORGIO Tertio

regnum jam ineunte,

pontis hujus, in reipublicæ commodum,

urbisq; majestatem,

(late tum flagrante bello)

a S. P. Q. L. suscepti,

primum lapidem posuit

THOMAS CHITTY, Miles,

Prætor:

ROBERTO MYLNE, Architecto.

Utque apud posteros extet monumentum

voluntatis suæ erga virum,

qui vigore ingenii, animi constantia,

probitatis & virtutis suæ felici quadam contagione,

(favente Deo

faustisque GEORGII Secundi auspiciis)

imperium Britannicum

in Asia, Africa, & America,

restituit, auxit, & stabilivit,

necnon patriæ antiquum honorem & auctoritatem

inter Europæ gentes instauravit;

cives Londinenses, uno consensu,

huic ponti inscribi voluerunt nomen

GULIELMI PITT.

Englisbed

(5)

Englisbed thus.

On the last Day of October, in the Year 1760,
and in the Beginning of the most auspicious Reign of
GEORGE the Third,

Sir THOMAS CHITTY, Knight, Lord Mayor,
laid the first Stone of this Bridge,
Undertaken by the Common Council of London,
(amidst the Rage of an extensive War)
for the public Accommodation,
and Ornament of the City :

ROBERT MYLNE being the Architect.
And that there might remain to Posterity
a Monument of this City's Affection to the Man,
who, by the Strength of his Genius,
the Steadiness of his Mind,
and a certain Kind of happy Contagion of his
Probity and Spirit,
(under the Divine Favour
and fortunate Auspices of GEORGE the Second)
recovered, augmented, and secured,
the British Empire

in Asia, Africa, and America,
And restored the ancient Reputation
and Influence of his Country
amongst the Nations of Europe ;
The Citizens of London have unanimously voted this
Bridge to be inscribed with the Name of
WILLIAM PITT.

Ultimo Die Octobris.

The last Day of October: This is a very bald Expression, and but little removed from a downright *Anglicism*. *Die Octobris XXXI.* would have been more in the Inscription Taste, which delights in these Capital Numerals: But, if they must have it *the LAST Day*, *postremo* is undoubtedly the Classical Word; and, as Elegance of Construction should be particularly regarded in these little Things, it should also have been placed after *Die Octobris*, and not before it. *Die Octobris postremo.* It is strange, that when *postero*, or *posteriore*, might have served instead of a better Word, that the Author should unluckily pitch upon poor *Ultimo*.

Anno ab Incarnatione.

If our Author had known any Thing of Precision, he would certainly have added N. S. J. C. *i. e.* *Nostri Salvatoris Jesu Christi*, which would likewise have
looked

looked very pretty, since nothing in Works of this Kind is so pretty as single Capitals. But why could not simply *Anno Domini* have served his Turn, as Brevity is no less to be consulted in Inscriptions? I suppose he was afraid, lest Posterity should mistake it for the *Year of the Lord* Mayor. However, if the Author had been the least acquainted with the Custom of the *Romans* on these Occasions, he might have borrowed a very elegant Phrase from them, I mean, *Anno Urbis Conditæ*, which would have preserved to Posterity the precise *Æra*, when the City of *London* was first built; and this, there is no doubt, might have been accurately fixed by the *Antiquarian* Society, assisted in their Enquiries by the Ruins of the City-Gates.

MDCCLX.

It may seem odd, that I should find Fault with these innocent Letters; but Preciseness obliges me to point out, that they are never applied in this Manner in

Latin

Latin Inscriptions. Had the Author but dipped into *Montfaucon's* or *Graevius's Antiquities*, or even *Stow's Survey of London*, he would have found, that, instead of CC, he should have used CID, and the least Observation would have informed him, that a Point or Dot was necessary after some of the Letters, as thus M.D.CID.LX. The Virtuoso's Eye must be as much hurt by the vulgar MDCCLX, as it would be by the barbarous *Arabic Numerals* 1760.

Auspicatissimo Principe GEORGIO *Tertio*
Regnum jam ineunte.

Auspicatissimo, (the most auspicious) besides being a most egregious Anglicism, is, at best, but a very doubtful Compliment to his present Majesty. I have looked into *Holyoak's Dictionary*, as it is vulgarly called, though the first, and best Impression, properly styles it, *Vocabularium a Sanctâ Quercu*. There I find *Auspicatus*, [ab *Auspicium*] *auspicious*, malo sensu frequenter usitat. Omen auspicatum, i. e. Corvorum. Cic.
Auspicata

Auspicata Mulier. PLAUT. **A** bad **Woman**. Now, among the most numerous and most illustrious Tribe of *issimi*, could not the Author have culled out some choice Epithet of the superlative Degree, that would not be liable to a double Meaning? Surely he might have met with *pick and chuse* in Abundance, from the Dedications to foreign Potentates; such as in those to the *French King*, *Christianissimo*, to the *Spanish*, *Catholicissimo*, to his Holiness the Pope, *Sacro-Sanctissimo*. But the Epithet, that might at once have occurred to our Author, as most suitable to his present Majesty's Character, (and, I am sure, every one will agree with me) is OPTIMO.

To proceed Our Author is so desirous of setting down at length, what ought to be expressed in Figures only, (contrary to the known Rules of Inscription-Writing) that here again he must substitute *GEORGIO Tertio*, instead of *GEORGIO III.* as he would needs have *Ultimo Die Octobris*, in the Room

of *Die Octobris XXXI.* I ask him, did he ever see *Tertius* or *Secundus* upon an Halfpenny, a Coin the nearest approaching to the Copper Medals of the *Cæsars*? No. Even *Charles the Second*, who would not stile himself either II. or *Secundus*, (for Fear, I suppose, of offending the Puritans) elegantly stamped himself, on his earliest Coins, *Carolus a Carolo*; and I could not have blamed our Author, if, instead of lengthening out III. to *Tertio*, he had further extended it into *Georgio a Friderico a Georgio a Georgio*.

Regnum jam incunte.

It is hoped, that the News-papers, Magazines, and other faithful Histories of the present Times, will convince Posterity, that his Majesty King *George the Third* was, on the last Day of *October*, 1760, actually in the Kingdom; otherwise, from the above Expression, they might naturally conclude the contrary, since *regnum jam incunte* can only be construed, *just now coming into the Kingdom*;

dom; and should the unfortunate *Tertio* in the Line above, happen to be defaced or worn out, Posterity will be apt to imagine, that the Bridge begun to be built at the Time that *George the First* landed on the *English* Shore from *Hanover*.

*Pontis hujus, in Reipublicæ Commodum
Urbisque Majestatem.*

Here again my Friend *Holyoak* must be called in to inform our Author, that the Preposition *in*, with an Accusative Case following it, generally signifies *against*, and not *for*; so that the Sense of this Passage might be, that the Bridge was set on Foot, *to the Detriment of the Publick, and derogatory of the Majesty of the City of London*. Nor would this Interpretation appear strange, considering the great Disputes that have arisen about the Form and Construction of its Arches. But allowing this Sentence to bear a good Meaning, it is certainly necessary to make a slight Transposition of the

Words thus....*In Reipublicæ Majestatem, Urbisque Commodum* . . . for every one must agree with me, that the Bridge is undoubtedly erected *for the Accommodation of the City.*

Before I have done with this Passage, I must remark, that every *classic* Eye must be offended with seeing *reipublicæ* spelt at length, and made only one Word of; whereas it ought to have been split in two, or, at least, contracted to *reip.* or *reipubl.* or to *Rpublicæ*, or simply *R. P.* which latter is perhaps the most elegant Way of writing it, as it is certainly the most ancient, and (what must further recommend it) consists only of Capitals.

Latè tum flagrante Bello.

What must Posterity suppose from this Sentence, (which is put in a Parenthesis, and might indeed be better omitted) but that the Bridge was built purely *on Account of the War?* And can they conceive any other Reason, but that it

was

was merely designed for the Conveniency only of the Trained-Bands crossing the Water? Otherwise, what signifies it, whether the Bridge was built in War-Time or in Peace? Suppose our worthy Citizens had set about it at the Time of the last dreadful Fire by *St. Magnus* Church, the Inscription, in that Case, might have run *Latè tum flagrante IGNI* . . . and this too with some Shadow of a Meaning, as it might have been supposed, that the Espousers of *Black-fryars* Bridge thereby meant to express their secret Wish, that the Fire might reach as far as its Antagonist, the Temporary Bridge. But, after all, what has *tum* to do in this Passage? Is it placed there to signify, that the War raged on the last Day of *October* particularly, or at the very Instant of my Lord-Mayor's laying the first Stone?

Pontis bujus

a S. P. Q. L. suscepti.

Here the Author has for once awkwardly attempted to copy the Usage of the Ancients on their publick Inscriptions. Every School-Boy can tell him, that S. P. Q. R. signifies the whole State of *Rome*, that is, the Senate and the People: But let us examine, whether S. P. Q. L. comprehends the whole City of *London*. Now it is well known, that the Commonwealth of *Rome* was made up only of two Bodies, to wit, the Senate and the People; whereas the City is composed of,

1. The Lord-Mayor, or *Prætor*.
2. The Aldermen, or *Aldermanni*, (there being no *Latin* Term equal to their Dignity.)
3. The Common Council Men, or *Communis Concilii Fratres*.
4. The ordinary Freemen, or *Liberti*.

Therefore

Therefore the above Capitals are not sufficient to denote this extensive Corporation, but they should stand thus :

a P. A. C. C. F. L. Q. L.

i. e. Prætores, Aldermannis, Communis Concilii Fratribus, Libertisq; Londinensibus. And how much more noble do these numerous Capitals look (*P. A. C. C. F. L. Q. L.*) than the sneaking *S. P. Q. R.* of the *Romans!*

But what are we to understand by *Pontis suscepti*? Let us again consult *Holyoak*, and he will inform us, that *suscipere opus*, or *suscipere negotium*, may signify, *to undertake any Work or Business*, but *suscipere onus*, or *suscipere pontem*, must have a different Construction; and *Pontis a S. P. Q. L. suscepti*, in this Place, can only be understood, *that the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and Citizens, took up the Bridge on their Shoulders, and carried it clean off.*

Primum

Primum Lapidem posuit

THOMAS CHITTY, Miles,

*Prætor :*ROBERTO MYLNE *Architecto.*

The superficial common Scholar will hardly conceive, that any mistakes can possibly have been made in this plain and simple Sentence ; but any one, who is conversant in the Method of Inscriptions, will discover many Blunders.

I am credibly informed, that the first Plate, on which the Inscription was engraved, was obliged to be laid aside, on Account of the Engraver, who did not understand *Latin*, cutting the Line *Tho^r. Chitty Miles*, (as if it was Mr. *Tho^r. Chitty Miles*) instead of, *Thomas Chitty, Miles, a Knight*: And no Wonder, that the ignorant Artist should commit such a Blunder, when the Manuscript had it originally *Tho^r.* a barbarous Abbreviation of *Thomas*, and the Word *Dominus*, as *Latin* for *Sir*, (i. e. *Knight*) instead of *Miles*. But does not any one see,

see, that *Chitty* should have been *Chittius*, or rather *Chitteius*, as in the next Line *Mylne* should be *Mylneio*, *Thomas Chitteius*, *Roberto Mylneio*? It is, indeed, a Pity, that these Words will not bear to be converted into true *Latin*, like my Friend *Holyoak* into *Sancta Quercus*; or, as the Rev. *George White* stiled himself *Agricola Candidus* *. But, as this cannot be, they ought, at least, to have a *Latin* Termination; and every Judge of Antiquity will agree with me, that, without this Addition, these Names will sound no better than the familiar Appellations of *Tom Chitty* and *Bob Mylne*.

*Utque apud Posterios extet Monumentum
Voluntatis suæ ergà Virum.*

Voluntatis suæ: It is hard to determine, whether this means the *Bridge's*
D Affection,

* This excellent Genius formerly published a *Latin* News-Paper, and stiled himself by the Name above-mentioned. He was, indeed, obliged to have Recourse to the *Greek* Language, as well as the *Latin*, on this Occasion. Finding out, that *George*, or rather *Georgus*, would in *Greek* Characters be Γεωργος, and then finding out (in *Screwelius's Lexicon*) that this meant *Agricola*, he very happily first græcized, thence latinized, his Pronomen into that excellent Appellation.

Affection, or *Thomas Chitty's* and *Robert Mylne's*, whose Names immediately go before ; but it is obvious, that in the first Line, the Author has a double Meaning, and intends a Compliment to one of the City Structures . . . *Ut apud Posterios extet MONUMENTUM ; that the MONUMENT may stand to Posterity.* In Return for this patriotic Wish, I would propose, that, as some have idly conceived a Prejudice against *Elliptic Arches*, (the most strong and beautiful of any) this Line should be fixed on the Center Arch, with a slight Alteration,

APUD POSTEROS EXTET PONS.

*Qui Vigore Ingenii, Animi Constantiâ,
Probitatis & Virtutis, suæ felici quadam
Contagione.*

The first Line might have been this, that, or t'other ; but, in the Name of *Latin*, what is this *felici quadam Contagione* ? . . . By a certain Kind of a Sort of an happy Contagion . . . of what ? . . . *Probitatis & Virtutis suæ* . . . his own Probity and Virtue. Stay . . . I shall wear
out

out poor *Holyoak*, having used him at, and ever since I left, School but no Matter . . . let me see . . . oh . . . *Contagio*, f. [*a contactus, contangere*] *Contagion* . . . Now for his Instances . . . *Abisis contagionem spirat*. TER. And many others, not one of which but gives the Word in a bad Sense. But even allowing that *Contagio* may be taken in a good Sense, as it is qualified with the Epithet of *felix*, the Line, after twisting and winding it which Way you please, can only be understood. that Mr. Pitt *caught the happy Contagion of his own Probity and Spirit*. But the Author undoubtedly intended an Innuendo by this Passage, that the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, and the rest of the Citizens, were *infected* with the same Probity and Spirit.

*Imperium Britannicum
in Asiâ, Africâ, et Americâ,
restituit, auxit, et stabilivit.*

From the Order of the Words, and from the common Method observed in Inscriptions, Posterity will doubtless conceive, that the author meant to particu-

larize the different Success of our Arms in different Parts of the Globe ; and they will naturally understand this Passage as follows :

<i>In Asiâ</i>		<i>In Africâ</i>		<i>In Americâ,</i>
<i>restituit,</i>		<i>auxit,</i>		<i>stabilivit.</i>

that is, he restored the *British* Empire in *Asia*, he augmented it in *Africa*, he secured it in *America*. Every body knows, that Inscriptions should be as plain as possible, and the least liable to have their Sense mistaken : I therefore cannot suppose, that our Author should depart from this known Rule, but rather imagine, that some officious would-be-critic foisted in this Line about *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, because *Europe* happens to come in the next Sentence, and he was willing to have all the four Quarters of the Globe together. I am convinced, that our Author would rather have brought in all the four Winds, and have written it, *In Euro, in Boreâ, in Austro, &c.* Or had he said, *cum in Asiâ, tum in Africâ, et Americâ restituit, auxit, et stabilivit*, there could have been no Room to doubt of its Meaning.

Necno n

*Necnon patriæ antiquum Honorem et
Auctoritatem
Inter Europæ Gentes instauravit.*

A little Lad, a Relation of mine, who is in the third Form at *Westminster* School, happened to call upon me, just as I had finished my last Remark. I set him to construe this Passage. He began ... *Nec non*, also ... *instauravit*, he, he, he, [restored, Child!] restored... *antiquum Honorem*, the ancient Honour ... *et Auctoritatem*, and the Authority ... [Good Boy! wonderful!] ... *Patriæ* ... [Well!] of their Countries ... [*their* Countries, Child?] Yes, Uncle, *inter Europæ Gentes*, among the Nations of *Europe*. Upon my Word, the Boy set the Passage in a different Light to what perhaps I should have seen it in; and Posterity must consider our great Patriot as the Patriot of all Countries, Foes or Friends, when they understand, from this Sentence, (as it cannot be well construed otherwise) *that he restored the ancient Honour*

and Authority [not only of his own, but] of each their several respective Countries to all the Nations of Europe. Had, indeed, the little Word *suæ* here happened to have slipt in . . . *Patriæ suæ antiquum Honorem & Auctoritatem, &c.* it would have given the Sentence that Meaning which the Author doubtless intended it should convey.

*Cives Londinenses, uno Consensu,
huic Ponti inscribi voluerunt Nomen
GULIELMI PITT.*

It cannot be sufficiently lamented, that the Inscription throughout is so entirely devoid of the genuine Marks of just and classical Composition. I have pointed out the egregious Ignorance of the Author, in this Kind of Writing, in his very first Line, *in vestibulo*, as it were; and he has shewn no less Ignorance in the Conclusion. *Cives Londinenses* . . . What a Pity 'tis, that he had not made Use of that magnificent Range of Capitals, P. A. C. C. F. L. Q. L. as before recommended! but how shocking is it, that the Ignorant has not had
Reading

Reading enough to know, that the Letters C. L. (nothing more than C. L.) were more full, more expressive, or more intelligible, and more *inscriptive* by themselves, than with the useless Addition of *ives ondinenses* !

The common Reader will hardly imagine that I should be able to spy out any Mistake in the last Line, *Gulielmi Pitt* ; but I hope to prove, to the Satisfaction of every Body, at least of every *Antiquary*, that the Author is wrong in both the *Christian* and *Surname* of this Gentleman. First then, it is well known, that the Word *Gulielmi* was never used in Inscriptions, except upon the barbarous Modern Medals, or Coins, of King *William* the Third. I wonder the Author did not write it, *Williami* which is certainly as good *Latin* for *William*, as this strange *Gulielmi* ; at least, he might have *barbaro-latinized* it into *Wilhelmi*, or (as the chaste *Roman* Alphabet abhorred a VV or W) called it *Vilbelmi*. But, if it must be something like *Gulielmi*, is it not notorious, that
it

it should be spelt *Guilelmi* and not *Gulielmi*, as it is vulgarly and ignorantly written ?

But to come to the Name *Pitt*
 O what a glorious Opportunity was here let slip of naturalizing an *English* Name into the *Latin* Tongue, by a *Latinization* of it *Pitt ! Pitt !* a low *English* Word ! *Sink, Ditch, Bog, Quagmire*, would found equally noble. But if, instead of this, it had been written *Fossa*, how grandly would that have founded ! And, surely, every Admirer of antique Learning will agree with me, that *Fossa ! Guilelmi Fossæ !* . . . would have made the illustrious Name of the *Fossas* adored and remembered to all Posterity.

As to the Objection, which will possibly be raised, that Posterity may perhaps apprehend the Word *Fossa* to mean *Ditch* instead of *Pitt*, that can have no Force at all, as they will easily find, that though *Will Pitt* was at the Head of the Ministry at this present Time, there was no such Person joined with him in the Administration, as *Will Ditch*.

Ditch. It is true, indeed, that the City formerly joined *two* Names together in their Presentation of their Freedom and Gold Boxes : It might therefore be a Matter of some Wonder, that they did not think fit to couple them on the present Occasion, and at the same Time that they immortalized *Guilelmus Fossa*, they did not pay the same Honours to *Henricus Bilsonus Crus*.

And now I have touched upon the Subject of converting *English* Proper Names into *Latin*, I shall beg Leave to enlarge upon it a little further, and to shew its peculiar Elegance and Propriety. We cannot but be sensible, that most of our *English* Names, which have any Meaning at all, are borrowed from the lowest, and sometimes the most ridiculous, as well as offensive Objects. Thus, for Instance, what can be more shocking to a delicate Ear, than *Mangey*, *Rag*, *Belcher*, *Gorge*, *Grub*, *Trollop*, *Nanny*, *Hussey*, &c. &c. &c. Not to mention some others, that border very nearly on Indecency. Many, again,

E take

take their Appellation from the lowest Tradesmen and Mechanics; such as *Smith, Mason, Gardener, Packer, Dyer, Turner, Taylor, Cook, Cooper, Carter, Draper, Glover, Butcher, Plumber, Painter, Carpenter, &c.* Almost all Kinds of Beasts, Birds, and Fishes, are also to be found among us; as *Buck, Stag, Hart, Hind, Fox, Hare, Bull, Bullock, Lamb;---Duck, Drake, Gosling, Crow, Hawk, Kite, Heron, Crane, Parrot, Partridge, Cock, Woodcock;---Sprat, Herring, Crab, Whiting, Salmon, &c.* The four Quarters of the Wind, *East, West, North, and South*, are also frequently used as Surnames; and almost all the Colours of the Rainbow are appropriated to the same Purposes; as *Green, Scarlet, Grey, Brown, Black, Blackall, Blackmore, White, Whitehead, Redhead, &c.* Even the different Parts of our Habitations furnish us with no inconsiderable Number of Names: We have *House, Garden, Court, Wall, Hall, Kitchen, Garret, Stair, Chambers, Wood, Stone, Lock, Key, Street, Lane, &c.*

We have also *Fields, Meadows, Hills, Rivers, Lakes, Ponds, Pools, Dykes, Hedges,* &c. in Abundance. Some Parts of the Body likewise serve for the same End; as *Head, Scull, Leg, Foot, Trotter,* &c. But why need I dwell any longer on this Subject? There are *Rich and Poor, Sharp and Blunt, Young and Eld, Long and Short, Small and Great, Walker and Rider, Swift, Hastings,* and *On-slow*; with a Variety of other Names taken from the most common Actions of our Lives.

Let us then suppose, that these Names or the most vulgar and disagreeable of them, were to be changed into *Latin*: It would perhaps be objected, that the Words in either Language would still bear the same Import; yet it must be allowed, that the Sound being altered, the Ear is not so immediately shocked, or the Mind so directly struck with the Vulgariness or Indelicacy of their Meaning. For Instance, though the Name *Belcher* should of Right belong to nobody but a *Dutchman*, the *Latin Word Eructator*

greatly alleviates the Filthiness of its Meaning by the Magnificence of its Sound : At least, it would not be inferior to the Title of that Emperor, who laid a Tax on a certain natural Evacuation, and was thence, by his Flatterers, stiled *Urinator*. Besides, there are a great many *English* Names, that nearly resemble those of the most illustrious Families and Offices in old *Rome* : Thus the *Smiths*, by a very fair Allusion, might be stiled FABRICII, the *Gardeners* HORTENSII, the *Tailors* SARTORII, the *Drapers*, TOGATI, the *Masons* ÆDILES, &c. &c. &c. So, in other Instances, *Long* would be readily converted into LONGINUS, as *Short* would be CURTIUS, *Great* or *Greathead* might be called MAXIMUS, or CAPITO MAXIMUS; *Young* (especially the Reverend Satirist of that Name) would not be improperly stiled JUVENALIS, as *Eld* or *Oldham* might fairly make SENECA : *Swift* or *Hastings* is FESTINUS, and *On-slow* directly answers to LENTULUS. So also among the Colours, *White* may be

be either ALBIUS or CANDIDUS, as *Black* or *Blackall* may at once assume the Title of the Emperor NIGER: And pray what is FUSCUS, to whom *Horace* addresses one of his Odes, but downright *Brown*? Suppose, therefore, a Gentleman of the Name of *Wenman* or *Warton*, would he not be proud to be called after CICERO, who received that Name on Account of a *Wen* or *Wart* growing on one Side of his Face? And the *Italian* Musician, whom the Courtesy of the Galleries have, in a Manner, naturalized by the Appellation of *Nosy*, would, I believe, very readily exchange it for that of the Poet NASO; whom we may conclude to have been so called for the very same Reason, if we consider his supposed Intimacy with a certain Lady of the first Fashion in his Time.

But the Utility of this Proceeding is still further evident from the Practice of other Nations in Affairs of this Kind. The *French*, perhaps conscious of the Lightness and Futility of their own Language, always make Use of this
Manner

Manner of Writing on their public Monuments; and their famous *Academy of Inscriptions*, &c. was established for scarce any other Purpose, than to find out proper *Latin* Words for the Names of those illustrious Personages, who are, by these Means, to be immortalized. Thus, on a Medal struck in Memory of their famous Poet *Racine*, that Word signifying a *Root*, they have called him *Radix*; on another, in Honour of the two *Corneilles*, Father and Son, they have been contented, by a slight Mutation, to stile them *Cornelii Pat. et Fil. i. e. Pater et Filius*; but, I am informed, they are preparing another also for the *Son* of the latter, on which is to be inscribed the classical Name of CORNELIUS NEPOS . . . *Nepos*, in their Language, signifying the *Petit-Fils* or *Grandson*.

The *Dutch* (who have always preserved a true Taste for Compositions of this Kind, as well as for the finest Branch of Criticism, that of emending Letters) are very accurate in the Translations

lations of their excellent *Dutch* Names into *Latin*. One Instance may suffice for all. In the Church of *Rotterdam*, on the Monument of that famous Burgo-Master, (the first Projector of Stock-Jobbing) *Wynheer Wan Bugger-Bugger Piggledy-Piggledy Helter-Skelter*, he is concisely stiled, in the most elegant *Latinity* . . . *Omnium Gatherum*.

Having then these great Examples before our Eyes, what should hinder this Nation, which, though slow at Invention, is ever ready at Improvement, from making itself equally remarkable for its Taste in similar Undertakings. A noble Opportunity offers itself in the public Monument shortly to be erected; and, if the Inscription concerning a City Bridge must be in *Latin*, the Inscription on this Monument will undoubtedly be in the same Language: At least it ought to be so, if for no other Reason, than that the Name of *Wolf* will admit to be *latinized* into *Lupus*.

But to return from this Digression . . .
As I have found so much Fault with
the

the present Form of the *City Inscription*, I may be asked, perhaps, what other would I substitute in its stead? To this I answer If we would consult Elegance, Clearness, Strength, and Brevity of Expression, if we would regard the usual Practice in these Cases, it should certainly run somewhat in the following Manner.

NON. VIII. MENS.

A. U. C. MM.C.LXX.IX.

T. CHITTEIO PR.

PONT.

A P. A. C. C. F. L. Q. L. CONSTR.

LAP. P. P.

What can be more plain and intelligible than this? What can look nobler and more significant than this? An Antiquarian could hang over it with Rapture for Hours, nay Years together, and find out the Beauty of every single Capital. But, as the Author of the prolix and wordy *City Inscription* will doubtless

doubtless be puzzled to get at its Meaning, I will condescend to become a Decypherer to his Ignorance.

NON. VIII. MENS. *Nonis Octavi Mensis*, on the Nones of the Eighth Month, that is, *October 31*.

If we look, indeed, into the *Roman Calendar*, as adapted to ours, at the End of the Dictionaries, we shall find it differently set down; but, alas! the Editors have never considered the *Alteration of the Style*.

A.U.C. MM.C.LXXIX. *Anno Urbis Conditæ*, in the Year from the first Building of the City, 2179.

The Date of this Æra is modestly set down from authentic Records; but there are Traces of its Foundation much earlier; though it does not appear, either from *Stow's Survey*, or *Maitland's History of London*, that the Mayors were called *Lords*, or that any of the Citizens were *Knighted*, till a long while after this Period.

T. CHITTEIO PR. *Thomâ Chitteio Prætoræ*, *Thomas Chitty* being Mayor.

Though no one can be better affected to his Majesty than myself; yet I thought

it unnecessary, in a City Inscription, to mention the Time of his *beginning to reign*, especially if no other Expression can be found, than *Regnum jam ineunte*. It is sufficient to remark the precise Date by the Manner I have done; from the Year of the first Building of the City: But if this should be uncertain, authentic Records will fully prove it, by informing Posterity in what Year *Thomas Chitty* was Mayor; and, as to *Georgio Tertio Regnum jam ineunte*, it might as well have been said *Thomâ Chitty Mayoralturn jam exeunte*, *Thomas Chitty* just going out of his Mayoralty.

PONT. A. P. A. C. C. F. L. Q. L.
CONSTR. LAP. P. P. *Pontis a Prætorè, Aldermannis, &c.* (as explained before) *construendi Lapis primus ponebatur*, of a Bridge to be built by the Mayor, Aldermen, &c. the first Stone was laid... This is clear, short, and significant... But, you will say, as a Compliment to Mr. *Pitt* is necessary, how is that to be expressed? Why in the same concise and intelligible Manner;

GUIL.

GUIL. FOSSÆ.
PATR. PATRIÆ D.D.D.

Is there any Occasion to explain these Letters? *Guilelmo Fossæ Patri Patriæ Datur, Dicatur, Dedicatur*, Dedicated to *William Pitt*, the Father of his Country.

It is now high Time to have done with this dry and uninteresting Subject; for so it may appear to all, who are not conversant in Antiquity: And though I could easily have confirmed my Remarks by numerous Quotations from ancient and modern Authors and Critics, yet I chuse rather to leave it to the true Virtuoso to determine, whether my Criticisms are just or groundless. I shall only observe further, that, as the Inscription, which has given rise to this little Work, is said to have been engraven on *pure Tin*, I think, with more Propriety, it might have been upon *pure Lead*.

POST-

P O S T S C R I P T.

My Publisher having informed me, that this Pamphlet was refused a Place in the Daily Advertiser, I sent my Amanuensis to Jenour over the Door, to know the Reason; but the Fellow having been accustomed only to set down so many Words, without knowing, or even enquiring after, their Meaning . . . consequently having very little Practice of Memory . . . he quite forgot what was said to him. I must therefore desire Jenour over the Door would be pleased to acquaint my Publisher, why the same Favour should not be shewn by him to my learned Labours, as to other Works of Genius and Literature; especially as Jenour over the Door could not have read a Line of my Work, as the Advertisement was sent him before it was published.



F I N I S.